the Development Officers for improving customer care and services. The Scheme also provides an opportunity to the Development Officers to exist from the companies by taking Special Voluntary Retirement Package while continuing marketing insurance products for the companies as agents. Therefore, the Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme would enhance the efficiency of the insurance companies.

Instalment of Dearness Allowance

2699. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due to the Central Government Employees with effect from 1st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has since been released and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same is likely to be ordered to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The orders enhancing Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees from 52% to 55% w.e.f. 1.1.2003 have been issued on 4.4.03.

Repayment of debts by unemployed youths

†2700. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the slow progress in the timely repayment of debts by unemployed youths under Prime Minister's self-employment scheme;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that complicated procedure for sanctioning debts under this scheme and inadequate amount of debt are the main reasons behind it;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.